

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a charger that charges a body with a voltage in which an AC voltage is superimposed on an DC voltage, wherein the charger is not in contact with the body;

a humidity detecting unit that detects a humidity in a space between the charger and the body; and

a correcting unit that decides a magnitude of the AC voltage to be superimposed on the DC voltage based on the humidity;

a current detecting unit that detects direct current; and

a control unit that varies the magnitude of the AC voltage in accordance with the current detected and the humidity.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit varies the magnitude of the AC voltage if a change in the humidity exceeds a predetermined value.

Claim 4. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit varies the magnitude of the AC voltage after elapsing of prescribed time upon a power supply to the control unit is turned ON.

Claim 5. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit varies the magnitude of the AC voltage upon passage of prescribed number of papers.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the control unit carries out bias change of the AC voltage and sets the bias to a fixed value during image forming either of when an area corresponding to a non-image area on a latent image carrier is charged and when a charging bias is not applied.

Claim 7. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the charger is a roller that includes a material having a medium electric resistance.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the control unit changes bias of the AC voltage by a feed back control in accordance with the humidity.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a charger that charges a body with a voltage in which an AC voltage is superimposed on an DC voltage, wherein the charger is not in contact with the body;  
a humidity detecting unit that detects a humidity in a space between the charger and the body;  
a temperature detecting unit that detects a temperature in the space between the charger and the body; and  
a correcting unit that decides a magnitude of the AC voltage to be superimposed on the DC voltage based on at least one of the humidity and the temperature;

a current detecting unit that detects direct current; and

a control unit that varies the magnitude of the AC voltage in accordance with the current detected and the humidity and the temperature.

Claim 10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control unit varies the magnitude of the AC voltage if a change in any one of the humidity and the temperature exceeds a predetermined value.

Claim 12. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control unit varies the magnitude of the AC voltage after elapsing of prescribed time upon a power supply to the control unit is turned ON.

Claim 13. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control unit varies the magnitude of the AC voltage upon passage of prescribed number of papers.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim [[10]] 9, wherein the control unit carries out bias change of the AC voltage and sets the bias to a fixed value during image forming either of when an area corresponding to a non-image area on a latent image carrier is charged and when a charging bias is not applied.

Claim 15. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the charger is a roller that includes a material having a medium electric resistance.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim [[10]] 9, wherein the control unit changes bias of the AC voltage by a feed back control in accordance with any one of the humidity and the temperature.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A method of forming image comprising:  
detecting a humidity in a space between a charger and a body, wherein the charger charges the body with a voltage in which an AC voltage is superimposed on an DC voltage;  
deciding a magnitude of the AC voltage to be superimposed on the DC voltage based on the humidity;  
detecting a direct current; and  
varying the magnitude of the AC voltage in accordance with the current detected and the humidity.

Claim 18. (Cancelled).

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[18]] 17, wherein the varying includes varying the magnitude of the AC voltage if a change in the humidity exceeds a predetermined value.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[18]] 17, wherein the varying includes varying the magnitude of the AC voltage after elapsing of prescribed time upon a power supply to the control unit is turned ON.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended). The method according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 17, wherein the varying includes varying the magnitude of the AC voltage ~~after elapsing of prescribed time upon a power supply to the control unit is turned ON~~ passage of a prescribed number of papers.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 17, wherein the varying includes varying changing a bias of the AC voltage and setting of a bias to a fixed value during image formation either of when an area corresponding to a non-image area on a latent image carrier is charged and when a charging bias is not applied.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 17, wherein the changing of the bias of the AC voltage includes performing feed back control in accordance with the humidity.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A method of forming image comprising:  
detecting a humidity and a temperature in a space between a charger and a body,  
wherein the charger charges the body with a voltage in which an AC voltage is superimposed on an DC voltage;

deciding a magnitude of the AC voltage to be superimposed on the DC voltage based on at least one of the humidity and the temperature;

detecting a direct current; and  
varying the magnitude of the AC voltage in accordance with the current detected and the humidity.

Claim 25. (Cancelled).

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[25]] 24, wherein the varying includes varying the magnitude of the AC voltage if a change in the humidity exceeds a predetermined value.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[25]] 24, wherein the varying includes varying the magnitude of the AC voltage after elapsing of prescribed time upon a power supply to the control unit is turned ON.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[25]] 24, wherein the varying includes varying the magnitude of the AC voltage ~~after elapsing of prescribed time~~ upon passage of a prescribed number of papers ~~a power supply to the control unit is turned~~ ON.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[25]] 24, wherein the varying includes varying changing a bias of the AC voltage and setting of a bias to a fixed value during image formation either of when an area corresponding to a non-image area on a latent image carrier is charged and when a charging bias is not applied.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[25]] 24, wherein the changing of the bias of the AC voltage includes performing feed back control in accordance with the humidity.

Claim 31. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a charger that charges a body with a voltage in which an AC voltage is superimposed on an DC voltage, wherein the charger is not in contact with the body and is separated therefrom by a gap;

a humidity detecting unit that detects a humidity in a space between the charger and the body; and

means for minimizing an effect of a change in a width of the gap between the charger and the body on the surface charge of the body.